

NEWS SUMMARY.

City Affairs.—The journeymen horse-collar makers of this city are now on a strike against a reduction of wages, amounting to \$1.50 per dozen on certain styles of collars. Nearly all the collar makers in the city, we are informed, are on the strike.

A meeting of the Board of City Trusts was held yesterday, to consider the rules for the government of the body. Pending their consideration the board adjourned.

—Edward Taylor, a colored man, residing at No. 717 S. Seventh street, died suddenly yesterday afternoon at his residence. The coroner was notified.

The eighteenth anniversary of the Sabbath Schools of the Second Reformed Church, Seventh street, above Brown, was held last evening. The programme consisted of addresses delivered by Rev. L. S. Hartley, the pastor, and De Witt C. Moore, Esq., interspersed with music by the scholars. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity on this interesting occasion.

—Emma Roberts (colored) had a hearing at the Central Station yesterday, before Alderman Becker, on the charge of stealing over \$50 worth of dresses from Miss Mattie McDonald, No. 1511 N. Tenth street. Emma had been recently employed in the family in the capacity of servant, and taking advantage of their absence one day, she gathered up as much finery as she could carry and left. She was committed in default of \$1500 bail to answer.

—At the recent meeting of the Supreme Lodge, Knights of Pythias, the following financial report from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was read. Receipts by subordinate lodges during the year, \$157,499.55; expended for relief, etc., by same, \$75,099.60. The following are the present officers of the Supreme Lodge:—S. V. C., Wilbur H. Myers, of Pennsylvania; S. Chancellor, Saml. Bead, of New Jersey; S. Vice-Chancellor, C. L. Russell, of Ohio; Sup. R. and C. Scribe, C. M. Barton, Washington; S. Banker, Wm. A. Porter, of Pennsylvania; S. Guide, John F. Comstock, of Connecticut; Sup. I. S., H. C. Lloyd, of Kentucky; Sup. O. S., George H. Crager, of Nebraska.

Domestic Affairs.—Gold closed yesterday at 12 1/2.

—Massachusetts observes its annual fast on April 7.

—A great religious revival is in progress at Joliet, Ill.

—Judge Bradley took his seat on the Supreme Bench yesterday. Receipts by subordinate lodges during the year, \$157,499.55; expended for relief, etc., by same, \$75,099.60.

—Senator Cole, of California, wants the Secretary of the Senate removed.

—Several silk brokers have been arrested in New York, charged with smuggling.

—Governor Senter asks the President for military aid that he may be prepared for future emergencies in Tennessee.

—The Committee on the contested election case of Graham vs. Mooney have reported in favor of the latter, the sitting member.

—Southern Ohio has been added to the Internal Revenue District of Eastern Pennsylvania, which is now in charge of Supervisor Tutton.

General Ames has not yet been admitted to his seat from Mississippi, though it is said when the vote is taken he will have a large majority in his favor.

—During the hearing of the arguments relative to the Richmond municipal war, commenced yesterday, Judge Underwood expressed an opinion that the Enabling act is unconstitutional.

—The statement by the correspondent of a New York paper regarding the lawlessness in Onslow, Jones, Dauphin, and Twin counties, North Carolina, is contradicted on the authority of Governor Holden.

—It is stated that the condition of the City of Boston's propeller, when she last left New York, necessitated running the machinery one-third faster, thereby increasing the danger of fire, against which, however, special precautions had been taken.

—Captain Forsythe, of the Guion steamer Manhattan, which arrived at New York yesterday, denies having refused assistance to the Samarina. He did not know that it was the Samarina, and there was nothing, he says, to indicate that the vessel was in distress.

—At a meeting of coal operators held at Mahanoy City, yesterday, it was resolved that the proposed reduction in the basis and wages should be carried into effect. As the miners have intimated their determination not to accept the reduction, a suspension is considered inevitable.

Foreign Affairs.—The City of Boston is given up by the English underwriters.

—Petitions against Papal infallibility are circulating in Switzerland.

—An alliance is projected between the Unionists and Radicals in Spain.

—The bill for the enforcement of the laws in Ireland has passed the House of Commons.

—A steamer arrived at Lisbon yesterday from Madeira, but brought no tidings of the City of Boston.

—Prim commands that "in extreme eventualities" the army is to obey no orders unless signed by him.

—The testimony of the officers of the Bombay has been received in London. They persist that no one on board was aware of the condition of the Onaida, while the Bombay was considered to be in much danger.

COMMERCE.—President Grant's Message on Its Decline.

Washington, March 23.—The following is the message of President Grant, sent to Congress to-day, in relation to the decline of American commerce:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:—In the Executive message of December 6, 1869, to Congress, the importance of taking steps to revive our drooping merchant marine service was urged, and a special message promised at a future day during the present session, recommending more specifically plans to accomplish this result.

Now that the committee of the House of Representatives intrusted with the labor of ascertaining the cause of the decline of American commerce has completed its work and submitted its report to the legislative branches of the Government, I deem this the fitting time to execute that promise. The very able, calm, and exhaustive report of the committee points out the grave wrongs which have produced the decline in our commerce.

It is a national humiliation that we are now compelled to pay from twenty to thirty millions of dollars annually, exclusive of passage money, which we should share with the vessels of other nations; to foreigners for doing the work which should be done by American-owned and American-manned vessels. This is a direct drain upon the resources of the country of just so much money, equal to casting it into the sea, so far as this nation is concerned.

A nation of the vast and ever-increasing interior resources of the United States, extending, as it does, from one to the other

of the great oceans of the world, with an industrious, intelligent, and energetic population, must one day possess its full share of the commerce of these oceans, no matter what the cost. Delay will only increase this cost and enhance the difficulty of attaining the result.

I therefore put in an earnest plea for early action in this matter in a way to insure the increase of American commerce. The advanced period of the year, and the fact that no contracts for shipbuilding will probably be entered into until this question is settled by Congress, and the further fact that if there should be much delay all large vessels contracted for this year will fall of completion before the winter sets in, and will therefore be carried over for another year, induce me to request your early consideration of this subject. I regard it of such grave importance, affecting every interest of the country to so great an extent, that any method which will gain the end will secure a rich national blessing. Building ships and navigating them utilize vast capital at home. It employs thousands of workmen in their construction and manning. It creates a home market for the products of the farm and the shop. It diminishes the balance of trade against us precisely to the extent of freights and passage money paid to American vessels, and gives us a supremacy upon the seas of inestimable value in case of foreign war. Our navy at the commencement of the late war consisted of less than 100 vessels of about 150,000 tons, and a force of about 8000 men. We drew from the merchant marine, which had cost the Government nothing, but which had been a source of national wealth, 600 vessels, exceeding 1,000,000 tons, and about 70,000 men, to aid in the suppression of the Rebellion. This statement demonstrates the value of the merchant marine as a means of national defense in time of war.

The Committee on the Causes of the Reduction of American Commerce, after hearing the causes of its decline, submitted two bills which, if adopted, they believe will restore to the nation its maritime power. Their report shows with great minuteness the actual and comparative American tonnage at the time of its greatest prosperity, and comparative decline since, together with the causes, and exhibits other statistics of national interest in reference to the subject.

As the report is before Congress, I will not recapitulate any of its statistics, but refer only to the methods recommended by the committee to give back to us our lost commerce. As a general rule, it can be adopted. I believe that a direct money subsidy is less liable to abuse than an indirect aid given to the same enterprise. In this case, however, my opinion is that subsidies, while they may be given to specified lines of steamers, or other vessels, should not be exclusively adopted; but in addition to subsidizing very desirable lines of ocean traffic, a general assistance should be given in an effective way; and, therefore, I commend to your favorable consideration the two bills proposed by the committee, and referred to in this message.

U. S. GRANT, Executive Mansion, Washington, D. C., March 23, 1870.

THE PIGEANS.

Official Letter from General Sheridan—He Defends Colonel Baker, and Explains the Situation.

The following official communication from General Sheridan was received yesterday at the Army Headquarters:—

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI, CHICAGO, March 18, 1870.—General W. T. Sherman, Commander United States Army, Washington, D. C.—General. The further report of Colonel Baker, in reference to the punishment of the Pigean Indians, has not yet been received. It seems strange that there should be such a want of knowledge of the position which army officers have to maintain in reference to Indian affairs.

I have in my command at least five thousand miles of frontier settlements, my chief and only duty being to give protection to the families residing on these long lines against the outrages of Indians. The Government has invited these settlers by opening the lands to them for pre-emption and improvement.

A number of men, women, and children on this extensive frontier is very great, and there is not a day, from one year's end to the other, that these families are exempt from the fearful thought of being murdered in the most fiendish manner; the men scalped, the women ravished, and the brains of the children dashed out.

When I said in a previous letter that 800 had met that fate since 1862, I was below the figure, and should have said 1200. My duties are to protect these people. I have nothing to do with Indians; but, in this connection, there is scarcely a day in which I do not receive the most heart-rending appeals to save settlers from the cruel fate which may come upon them, and I am forced to the alternative of choosing whether I shall regard their appeals, or allow them to be butchered, in order to save myself from the hue and cry of people who know not the Indians, and whose families have been the ravish—morning, noon, and night—of being farished and scalped by them.

The wife of the man at the centre of wealth, civilization, and refinement is not more dear to him than is the wife of the pioneer of the frontier. I have no hesitation in making my choice. I am going to stand by the people over whom I am placed, and give them what protection I can. We have not the troops to place at each man's house to defend it, and have sometimes to take the offensive, to punish for crimes already committed, in order to prevent the perpetration of others.

In taking the offensive, I have to select that season when I can catch the fiends, and if a village is attacked, and women and children killed, the responsibility is not with the soldiers, but with the people whose crimes necessitate the attack. During the war, did any one hesitate to attack a village or town occupied by the enemy because women or children were within the lines? Did we cease to throw shells into Vicksburg or Atlanta because women and children were there?

If the women and children were saved in these places it was because they had cellars to go into; and should any of the women and children of the Pigeans have lost their lives I sincerely regret that they had not similar places of resort, though I doubt if they would have availed themselves of them, for they fight with more fury than the men. The soldiers do not want to kill Indians. After long years of frontier service, I am satisfied that they are the only good practical friends the Indians have.

We care not about being abused by one side or the other. If we allow the defenseless people on the frontier to be scalped and ravished, we are burnt in effigy and execrated as soulless monsters, insensible to the sufferings of humanity. If the Indian is punished, to give security to the people, we are the same soulless monsters from the other side. This is a bad predicament to be in, but, as I have

said, I have my choice, and am going to stand by the people whom the Government has placed me here to protect.

The reservation is the last ditch of the wild Indian, but to get him there he must be fired on by the troops. Those who think he can be induced to go there by other means are mistaken. When on the reservation he will have to be kept there by the presence of the troops, and thus become tangible for the good work of civilization, and he can only be protected in his rights while there by the troops keeping off the emigrants who encroach on his land. All these points are practically exhibited each year.

The Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Comanches, Kiowas, and Apaches have just been fired on by the troops. During the last year, as soon as I withdrew the troops from the Sac and Fox reservations, the emigrants took possession; a flood of emigration, almost ten thousand strong, moved in solid mass and occupied the Osage reservation, because there were no troops there to keep them off. All the other reservations on which the Indians were set before, will be lost in the same manner unless guarded by military.

Yours, truly, P. H. SHERIDAN, Lieutenant-General.

NEW JERSEY M. E. CONFERENCE.

Thirty-fourth Annual Session—First Day's Proceedings.

LONG BRANCH, N. J., March 23.—The thirty-fourth annual session of the New Jersey Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church commenced this morning at nine o'clock in the Centenary Church, Bishop Simpson presiding.

After the usual devotional exercises, Rev. J. D. King was unanimously elected Secretary. A committee was appointed to draft resolutions relative to the decease of Bishop Thompson and Dr. McClintock.

A circular from the Educational Secretary was read and referred to the Committee on Education.

A circular from the Freedmen's Aid Society was read and referred to the appropriate committee.

The Bishop called up the eighth disciplinary question as to who are supernumeraries or worn-out preachers. Several characters were acted upon.

The seventh disciplinary question as to who are supernumeraries was taken up. The reports of effective elders were called for.

Rev. J. Lewis, Presiding Elder of the Camden District, made a report of the condition of his district.

A communication from the West Jersey Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, relative to the great disregard of the Sabbath all over the country, was received and referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

After the announcement of the committee meetings the conference adjourned.

NEWARK M. E. CONFERENCE.

NEWARK, March 23.—The thirteenth annual session of the Newark Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church convened to-day, Bishop Ames presiding. Rev. Henry Beam, of Staten Island, in his 95th year, said to be the oldest Methodist minister in the United States, was present.

PIERRE BONAPARTE.

Third Day of the Trial—Grave Contradictions in the Testimony—Rochefort Called for the Prosecution.

TUESDAY, March 23.—The High Court of Justice opened at 11 o'clock. Witnesses were examined to prove that Fonvielle said Victor Noir slapped the Prince in the face. The lawyers for the prosecution dwell with effect on some grave contradictions in this testimony.

A number of policemen testified to remarks made by Fonvielle after his arrest. The prosecuting lawyer created a sensation by declaring that the original report of the police in this case was not to be found. Only a copy, dated ten days later, could be produced.

One witness swore he had heard Fonvielle exclaim if his pistol had not missed fire he would have shot the Prince. This had an effect on the spectators, who are evidently beginning to lean to the cause of the Prince.

Witnesses for the prosecution were then examined. Arnould testified that Victor Noir had no intention of attacking the accused when he went to his house.

Henri Rochefort was called as a witness for the prosecution. There was much agitation among the spectators at the announcement of his name. Rochefort entered the court room, accompanied by two gendarmes, and took his place on the witness stand. He was pale but very calm. He replied quietly to the interrogations, and after repeating the contents of the letter sent him by the accused, which occasioned the visit of Noir and Fonvielle, he retired to the bench reserved for journalists. Many of the latter shook hands with him. He took his seat.

The wife of Louis, brother of Victor Noir, was called to testify. She was much agitated. She said Victor Noir could not have slapped the Prince, because the gloves on his hands were found to be intact.

Other witnesses corroborated the statement of Arnould, that Noir did not intend to quarrel with the Prince.

Morel, reporter of the *Monteur*, testified that witnesses who now swear to Fonvielle's admission that Noir slapped the Prince did not say so at first.

M. Millier and other witnesses testified to the physical weakness of Victor Noir, and the improbability of his striking the Prince, as the defense alleged.

During the intermission of the court many friends of M. Rochefort gathered around him. The gendarmes interfered, and surrounding the prisoner, kept his friends back.

THE MOHRMANN CASE.

The Hurtle Hanlon Makes a Confession.

During Hanlon's confinement in prison he had placed in the cell with him another prisoner (I) to whom he made a confession, which has been reduced to writing. Although the original document is in the hands of District Attorney Gibbons, yet the following which we have gleaned is the substance of it:

Hanlon, says the gentleman, stated, in commencing his confession, that he enticed Mary into the yard, then detailed how he choked her, and how he placed the body in the cellar and removed it.

He said he pushed the body out through the window, and after looking around to see if any one was about, wrapped it in a piece of carpet and stole silently out of the alley and walked sharply to the lot at Sixth and Diamond streets, to a spot he had previously chosen, and laid the body in a pond of water, so that in case it should be found it would appear as if she had been drowned. After taking a survey of the surroundings, he walked up to Susquehanna avenue, and thence to Sixth street, down the latter highway to Diamond, and passed thence into the yard of his house. Thinking that he had covered up

every track that would likely lead to his being suspected, he went to bed. This was between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning. Finding that he could not sleep, he got up and dressed himself. The greater part of that day he wandered about the city, thinking as to what course he had better pursue to avoid detection. The first intimation he had that he was suspected was when a couple of gentlemen entered his shop and quizzed him about the murder. He left home the next day, and remained away for some time. Hearing no more of the case he returned, thinking that he was perfectly safe, and that no further action would be taken by the authorities.

MARINE TELEGRAPH.

Additional Marine News see First Page.

ALMANAC FOR PHILADELPHIA—THIS DAY. SUN RISES 6:00. SUN SETS 6:16. HIGH WATER 1:31. PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.

GEORGE L. BUZZY, GEORGE N. TATHAM, D. C. JAMESON, COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH.

JOHN O. MCCAMMON, JOHN O. MCCAMMON, JOHN O. MCCAMMON, COMMITTEE ON ARBITRATION.

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PATENTS.

PATENT OFFICES, N. W. Corner FOURTH and CHESTNUT, (Entrance on FOURTH street), FRANCIS D. PASTORIUS, SOLICITOR OF PATENTS.

Patents procured for inventions in the United States, Foreign Countries, and all relating to the same promptly transacted. Call or send for circulars on Patents. Open till 9 o'clock every evening. 26 South

PATENT OFFICES, N. W. Corner FOURTH and WALNUT PHILADELPHIA.

FEE LESS THAN ANY OTHER RELIABLE AGENCY. Send for pamphlet on Patents. 24 Third Street. CHARLES H. EVANS.

STATE RIGHTS FOR SALE—STATI Rights of a valuable process patented and to the SILDING, CUTTING, and GRINDING of cast-iron, cast-steel, etc., are hereby offered for sale. It is an improvement on the process of the late Mr. SILDING, and it should be introduced into every family, in view of the fact that it is a most valuable process, and it is sold by the inventor,